

WCGS NEWS
SEPTEMBER 1995

VOL VI - No 3

This is my first try at editing our NEWSLETTER, which somehow reminds me of the very nice letter recently had from fellow-member Earle Chesson of Newport News, Virginia. Earle writes: " I am 73 , legally blind, and do not have a computer. This is being typed on a 1970s Smith-Corona portable. The maker just went into bankruptcy which leaves us with no manufacturer of typewriters. I think I should have been born in 1822 instead of 1922".

I know where you're coming from, Earle! I'm not all that far behind you in years, wear tri-focals, don't have a computer, and am typing this on a 1980s Smith-Corona portable. And 1827 does seem a VERY GOOD YEAR .

Hope you all have the August Journal by now. If you don't, let us know. Sincere thanks to all who contributed articles.

Now(You ^ugessed it!) lets get started on the December edition. And please don't forget those old "undocumentable" stories. Let's work to preserve the folk lore of the Albemarle..... those stories told to us by our parents or grandparents, who were told them by their parents or grandparents. Remember Mammy Yokum's admonition, "Time's a'wastin!".

Please try to have your articles in by November 1st.

Thank you,
Ed Norman

ACCOLADES, APOLOGIES, & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our July/August NEWS seemed to say that Ronnie Comstock had advised that information furnished by him for the CIVIL WAR READER was incorrect. Actually, it was my apology to Ronnie, thus:"Fellow member Ronnie Comstock has advised that the Editor misinterpreted the information that he furnished for the READER. Please refer to page 4: THE COMSTOCK BROTHERS.

Job Comstock of Company H was Ronnie's gg-uncle; not gg-grandfather. The Comstock brothers, Job and Louis, were sons of Job Sr., who didnot serve in the war, being over 50 years old when hostilities began".

Our most sincere thanks to our typist, Debra Coker, for her splendid job on the last two Journals. And for agreeing----HALLELUJAH----to do "December".

Debbie is a delight to work with. Consider, for instance, that from the day I had the first articles for the August edition, her Weyerhaeuser Company responsibilities took her to the West Coast, two trips to Grande

Paririe, Alberta, Canada, and on week-long trips in-state. During her brief moments at home, she met with your editor four times for review and planning, and could still say "This (the Journal) is sort of fun".

By way of further introduction to the Membership, we have invited Debbie to write an article on her and husband Jerry's families. We will probably meet the three sons, now in Seattle, Chapel Hill, and at Davidson College. And the four handsome cats who start sulking when she starts packing.

WCGS member Roy Vail announces a Family Réunion and meeting of "The Vail Family Historical Society---North Carolina" in Edenton October 6 & 7, 1995. Walking tours of Vail homes and Edenton Historic Sites. Afternoon tour of Plymouth, Lees Mill, Westover, and Vail Washington County gravesites. Family and friends call Roy at 912-859-2681 or 919-261-3053, or write Roy A. Vail, Rt.2 Box 311, Pavo, Georgia 31778.

Harry Lewis Thompson, eminent historian of the Albemarle, is the new Curator of Port O' Plymouth Museum. "Temporary" just now, but "permanent", we hope. Businessman, teacher, long a guiding light of Historic Hope Plantation, there a'int much Harry can't do...and do well. Let's all help Harry build the resources and patronage of this promising young museum.

The new Tyrrell County Genealogical and Historical Society (the name is tentative, just now) meets 4th Sundays, 2:30, at Town Hall. \$15 individual; \$20 family. Plans call for a monthly newsletter and two journals/yr. WCGS is pleased to be told that its recent meeting in Creswell may have encouraged Tyrrell to organize. We welcome them to the task, and fun, of preserving the rich history of the South Shore.

Concord Primitive Baptist Church Preservation Society has just published CONCORD CHURCH MINUTES-1810-1848. The minutes were transcribed by Shirleyan Phelps, member, past president, and former editor of WCGS. This publication should prove a delight to those of Scuppernon ancestry. One brief sample of its contents: "July 22 day 1813 Church meeting met by Adjournment a certain controversy arose between brethren Ebenezer Batman and Andrew Oliver and they were both excommunicated."

For copies @ \$10.00 each, contact:		
Shirleyan Phelps	Loretta Phelps	Doris Oliver
5806 NC Hwy 32 S	2637 Mt. Tabor Rd.	Main Street
Plymouth, NC	Creswell, NC	Creswell, NC
27962	27928	27928

To our President, Russell Tyson, THANKS for keeping the NEWS alive January-August, following the resignation of the NEWS editor. Hopefully, a volunteer will surface soon. In the meantime, bite the bullet and bare with me.

We have voted to return to the "calendar year" membership system. To those who joined after January: You won't lose money. Details next issue.

QUERIES

"I was born in the Mount Tabor area in 1932, attended Creswell School until 1945; my family then moved to Norfolk. I have lived in the Northern Virginia since 1958. My parents were Cleveland and Ida (Phelps) Ambrose; my grandparents were Woodson and Sarah Ambrose and Carney and Tempie (Furlough) Phelps...all born and raised in Washington County. Using the census records from Washington County, I have traced my ancestry back only to the early 1800s. I still need to verify some of the dates, locations, other family information, etc. If anyone has researched these family lines, I would appreciate any information...."

Leedy G. Ambrose. 11563 Lucasville Road, Manassas, Va. 22111-4422

Need parents of Sylvanus Spruill. He bound 1792 to Asa Snell. Married Elizabeth Phelps 1808. May have lived Tyrrell bef. 1815, then to Washington County. Had sons David A. and Zepheniah D. Spruill.

Also need circumstances of Joseph C. Spruill's removal from Washington County, NC to Surry County, Va. That year, age 29, m. Idella Avery in Surry. Was son of Sherod and Senie (Aseneth) Ambrose Spruill and grandson of Zepheniah D. Spruill of Scuppernon Twp.

Ed Norman, POB 754, Plymouth 27962
(assisting Joseph E. Spruill, Jr., Tappahannock, Va.)

Looking for Lillingtons, Swanns, and last name of Abner Nash Vail's second wife Isabella. Was she "Tarkington"?

Roy A. Vail. Rt. 2, Box 311, Pavo, Georgia 31778

Thomas and Mary Everett Stubbs d. 1738 Beaufort Co. Son John d. 1793 in present Washington County. John's sons Jesse and Aaron (my gg-gf) to Knox/Roane Co., Tenn c. 1795. Wish to know of any desc. of Thomas and Mary now in Washington County.

Francis L. Stubbs. 310 Manor Drive, Columbia, MO 65203-1732

Wish to correspond with anyone researching Collins, Stubbs, Jones, Harrison, Draper....of Washington, Martin, and Tyrrell Counties.

T. H. Casteel. POB 742 Chandler, AZ 85224

A Shocker!

LIBRARY TRUSTEES REFUSE WCGS \$10,400 GIFT

The Trustees of the Washington County Library recently voted, unanimously, to reject our offer of a new, state-of-the-art microfilm reader/printer. We aren't sure, but suspect, that the refusal of a gift of this amount (and for such an obvious need) is unprecedented in the history of Eastern North Carolina libraries.

Funds for our gift, you will recall, came from a competitive grant from the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources. It was granted for "the protection, preservation, and interpretation of historical assets with local and regional significance". Our itemized grant application specified a reader/printer, a 3-year maintenance agreement, film and/or books, and display cabinet(s) for the North Carolina Collection of the Washington County Library.

Our committee, appointed to select the best machine, within budget, for the purpose of the grant, invited Canon and Minolta to demonstrate appropriate reader/printers. We chose the Canon RP603Z, the newest model in the Canon stable..having been introduced to the market early this year.

Price of our selection is \$8.902. This amount includes the Model 603 with desirable options, a work station, and a 3-year maintenance contract. The 603 has a zoom range of 13X-27X, and produces 8 1/2" X 11" copies. The remainder of the \$10,400 would be available for the other Application items.

Following our selection, Mrs. Kim Webb, our WCL Librarian, informed the WCL Trustees that she wanted no reader/copier in her library that would not copy the entire width of a newspaper. She stated that the Canon representative had advised her that he now had a reconditioned survivor of the out-of-production model (which makes three sizes of prints) the like of which Mrs. Webb had know at the Halifax Library.. her prior place of employment.

The Trustees of the all-new Board (all appointed since June '95) felt that they should, to quote one of the members, "Support our librarian". This is, of course, a most laudable sentiment so long as such support does not hurt the Library.

Two meetings between the Chairman of the Trustees and the Chairman of the WCGS Directors failed to change the Trustees' resolve. WCGS Directors and officers then met, reviewed the sad situation, and voted, unanimously, to stand by our selection of the 603.

One subsequent meeting was held with Mr. Russell Lee, Chairman of the Trustees, who asked time to poll his people. He had, at this meeting, been informed that we were prepared to forfeit the grant, rather than

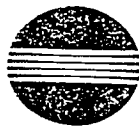
be forced into the purchase of the out-of-production machine. He got back to us within the week with the message that his people stood by their original decision.

As the six months allowed for use of the grant money expires within the next two weeks, WCCS has informed Cultural Resources that, barring a miracle, we will return the grant to the State. In answer to our inquiry, we were told, as we expected, "No"; that it would not be possible to transfer the grant to Tyrrell County. The only solace had from our conversation with our CR contact was praise for not agreeing to buy an obsolete machine.

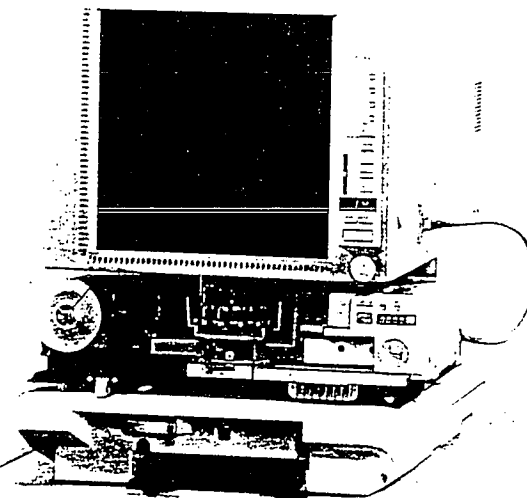
If we have favorable news from the Trustees before the grant expires, we will send a special NEWS. Keep your fingers crossed!

RP 603Z

Complete Universal Microfilm System



MINOLTA



Washington County
Genealogical Society,
P.O. Box 567,
Plymouth, NC 27962-0567